



Savannah Steamer

50th Anniversary Founded May 15th, 1957

Newsletter: March 2008

Volume 34 Issue 3

Savannah Council United States Navy League

A Word from the President



Now Hear This,

The good news is the weatherman smiled on Savannah once again for the St. Patrick's Day parade. The really good news is having had USS ROOSEVELT (DDG 80) in Savannah to participate with us. One of the stated goals of the Navy League is supporting the men and women of our sea services. I believe we can agree that being able to include the ship's crew in the weekend's celebration helped serve that goal.

During the next several weeks Savannah Council members will have more opportunities to continue the theme of supporting our sea service personnel. On March 21 quarterly recognition awards will be presented to sailors and marines of MALS-31, the Marine Corps F-18 maintenance squadron adopted by the Council in early 2007. Please contact Jim Morison (598-7131) if you'd like to attend.

On March 24 at 10:00 AM there will be a ceremony in Savannah involving the Georgia state flag which is traveling throughout all 159 counties in conjunction with the return to service of the USS Georgia (SSBN 729). The ceremony on Monday will kick off a week of

activities in Kings Bay for the official USS Georgia RTS ceremony at noon on Friday, March 28. If you signed up for one of the tours that week contact Bill Mataxas (355-8968) with any questions. Questions related to the Friday ceremony and/or receptions should be directed to Jim Keller (598-0940).

On April 2 we will present several recognition awards to members of VFA-86, the recently adopted US Navy F-18 squadron stationed in Beaufort. Please let Jim Morison (598-7131) know if you would care to attend.

On April 3 Savannah Council members will travel to Mayport, FL to present our adoption gift and recognition awards to members of the crew of our recently adopted ship, USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG-58). If you'd like to join us, please contact Tom Latham (598-9179).

Finally, at our dinner meeting on March 26 at the Hunter Club, beginning at 6:00 PM, our speaker will be Mrs. Theresa Rudacille, a graduate of West Point now married to LT COL Bryan Rudacille, also a West Pointer, currently serving as Commander of 1st Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. Mrs. Rudacille's comments will focus on today's military family. Please join us for what promises to be a dynamic and informative presentation.

That Is All. Carry On.

--Jim Keller, President

Mar. 25th Dinner Meeting 6:00 P.M. Hunter Club

Speaking at our March 25th Dinner Meeting will be author and advocate Theresa Rudacille, speaking on "Today's Military Family—Resilient, Reliable and Ready."

Theresa Rudacille was commissioned a lieutenant in the US Army upon graduation from the US Military Academy in 1986. She served in Germany with the Pershing Missile System until 1989. She left the service in 1992, married a West Point classmate in 1993 and moved to Ft. Lewis, WA. She then began working with a conservative, public policy think-tank, Evergreen Freedom Foundation. Public policy research and advocacy has been a major . . . *Continued on Page 3.*

Call Aunette Shipes at 330-0932 or savfoxy@bellsouth.net to reserve your seat, by Sun. Mar. 23rd.

Up Coming Events

March 21
Recognition Ceremony, MALS-31
Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station

March 24
Georgia Flag Project
Chatham County Courthouse

March 25
Dinner Meeting
Speaker – Terri Rudacille
“Today’s Military Family –
Resilient, Reliable and Ready”

March 28
USS Georgia
Return to Service Ceremony
Kings Bay Submarine Base

April 2
Recognition Ceremony, VFA 86
Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station

April 3
USS Samuel B. Roberts
Gift and Recognition Ceremony
Mayport, FL

March Speaker...Continued from Page 1



part of her life ever since.

As a military spouse, Theresa has moved her family to Fort Bragg NC, Ft. Benning GA, Quantico VA, Schofield Barracks in HI, and now to Savannah. She has been involved with Family Readiness Groups for more than 14 years and has been active in shaping FRG training and support materials for the Ranger Regiment and directed the Leadership Seminar program for company-level spouses at Fort Benning.

In 1999, Theresa authored Raising Resources: A More-Than-Fundraising Handbook and workshop series used as a training resource by the Office of Faith-Based Initiatives in the White House. She remains active in various public policy issues, and she serves on the Board of Advisors for the World Association of Nongovernmental Organizations.

Theresa’s latest project is developing a national network of independent charter schools to serve the educational needs of military children. Theresa holds a Certificate in Nonprofit Management from Duke University and is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. She is married to LTC Bryan L. Rudacille, Commander of 1st Ranger Battalion, and has three young children. She currently resides in Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia.

Congratulations New Officers



Jim Keller presents Brass “World Time” paperweight to Hugh Robinson at the February Dinner Meeting.



Back row: VPs, Tom Latham, Jim Morison, Sam Mc Laughlin, Mike Campbell. Front row: Bob Gephart, Jim Keller, Debbie Keller

For the most up-to-date information and more photos, check our website at:
<http://savannah.navyleague.us>

Treasurer Report

Savannah Council's finances continue on a fairly even keel, but some improvements are needed to keep it that way. Two items of immediate impact are Local Dues and Dinner Fees.

About 130 renewals of Local Dues have been received, leaving about 150 members from 2007 yet to renew. Some members have said they did not see the January notice, so an e-mail message is being sent to all those unpaid members. Please be on the lookout for that notice. Dues can be sent to: **Robert Gephart—Treasurer, Savannah Navy League, P.O. Box 31006, Savannah, GA 31410.**

The costs of our dinners at Hunter Club have been averaging about \$17.75 per plate for the last several months. Since we have only charged \$18 per plate, it means we lose money every month due to just the normal guests—speaker, speaker's assistant, and Sea Cadets. Accordingly, the Board has decided to raise the Dinner Fee to \$20 per plate effective with the April dinner meeting. This will be announced at the March dinner meeting. Finally, the Board has approved a 2008 Budget. That Budget is balanced – no profit, no loss—based on incorporating the new Dinner Fee and paid Local Dues.

--Bob Gephart

The Navy League of the United States is a civilian organization dedicated to informing the American people that the United States of America is a maritime nation and that its national defense and economic well-being are dependent upon strong sea services—United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast

Check our website at <http://savannah.navyleague.us>

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